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League of Red Cross Societies

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The League of Red Cross Societies is an international organization grouping together, for their peace-time activities, the National Societies, of the following countries : Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chili, China, Colombia Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, Netherlands East Indies, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Salvador, Siam, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

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CENTRAL EUROPEAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE

Prague, April 12th to 15th, 1933.

Regional Conferences

The Third Central European Conference meets at Prague on the 12th and 13th of next month and will be attended by representatives of the Red Cross Societies of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Other Red Cross Societies have been invited to send representatives in an advisory capacity. The moment therefore seems opportune to take stock of past regional conferences, their justification and their value. I suppose no period in the world's history has seen so many international conferences as the last fourteen years since the war. The very number and variety of these conferences show that there is a wide realization that the nations cannot live for and by themselves and that each has much to gain by common discussion and common agreement.

When the record of Red Cross conferences, both international and regional, during these years is weighed in the balance I am convinced that we have cause for reasonable pride. In no other organization are the divisions of race, nation, and creed more completely irrelevant; in no other organization is there the same unity in pursuit of a common end, the welfare and the health of mankind and the alleviation of human suffering.

But, though it is true that the aims of the Red Cross are universal in their scope, they are necessarily individual in their application; that is to say that, while the broad lines of Red Cross policy are laid down at the great International Red Cross Conferences, they are carried out by each society in its own country. Groups of these countries have special difficulties and problems of their own which are best discussed in regional conferences.

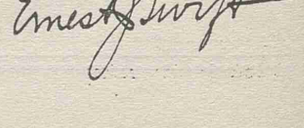
As the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies is situated in Western Europe we must avoid the tendency to envisage the universal work of the Red Cross from the viewpoint of this part of the world.

Even at our great conferences, it is difficult for distant nations to send as large or as influential delegations as those in the vicinity. Of course a great deal is done to counterbalance this geographical disadvantage by visits of the Secretary General and the technical members of the League Secretariat to individual countries. Regional conferences have, however, advantages that this method alone cannot supply. There is the stimulus of discussion of common problems by the national leaders themselves, the comparison of methods of organization, and the search for common solutions. Add to this the immense propaganda value of a large regional conference for Red Cross work. It is held usually in a national Capital, in the full blaze of newspaper publicity. It frequently receives governmental notice. For example, the delegates of the First Oriental Red Cross Conference were graciously received by Their Majesties the King and Queen of Siam. Opportunities are provided for meeting some of the most influential men and women in the country. Moreover, delegations are welcomed from organizations pursuing kindred aims.

The Prague Conference will be the eighth regional conference. It has been preceded by the First and Second Oriental Red Cross Conferences at Bangkok (1922) and at Tokyo (1926), the First and Second Eastern and Central European Red Cross Conferences at Warsaw (1923) and Vienna (1925), the First and Second Pan-American Conferences at Buenos Aires (1923) and at Washington (1926), and the First Balkan Red Cross Conference at Belgrade in 1930. Although the third Pan-American Conference will not be held this year, the Secretariat is continuing, in collaboration with the Brazilian Red Cross, to study the possibility of holding such a meeting in the not far distant future. We hope, too, before long to arrange for a Near Eastern Red Cross Conference to deal with the special problems of that part of the world.

Anyone who will look through the recommendations of these regional conferences will be struck by the immense range of Red Cross work; but perhaps even more valuable than the actual recommendations passed are the thorough and detailed reports presented. They dissipate any possible remaining doubt as to the value of regional conferences. They cover every aspect of regional interest and are the result of patient study by experts in their subjects who have often made special study visits. In the course of their investigations they form a body of literature invaluable for reference to the Red Cross Societies concerned.

The surest measure of the success of these regional conferences is perhaps the fact that they have invariably been followed by enthusiastic requests for second regional conferences in two or three years' time. I think, looking back on the past, we may affirm without undue pride that Red Cross regional conferences have eminently fulfilled their purpose. They have the great advantage of a unity of aim and spirit which unites all energies in the cause of human welfare. In the faithful service of such an ideal a productive future is assured.



The Princesses of Baghdad

Baghdad, the city of the Caliph Haroun al Raschid, of Queen Sheherazade and all the glamour of the Thousand and One Nights, is fast building up another and hardly less wonderful reputation as an outpost of health and health education in the Near East. The Red Crescent Society founded last year is showing signs of the same vigour as most of the new institutions of the young kingdom of Iraq and has formed its first Voluntary Aid Detachment. The first volunteers were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Azhar and Princess Rajha who themselves speak and understand English well and who have organized a class of English-speaking girls. On February 7th the candidates for the first Voluntary Aid Detachment to be formed under the Iraq Red Crescent Society were received by Her Majesty the Queen and enrolled as the first members of the Women's Branch of the Iraq Red Crescent.

The Classes will be taken by Miss Walker, of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service. Miss Forsyth, the Matron of the Royal Air Force Hospital at Hinaidi, has undertaken to attend the classes from time to time and watch the progress of the pupils who, with their royal leaders, are inspired with great enthusiasm for their pioneer work. The aim of the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments is at present exclusively for work in the home. Male Voluntary Aid Detachments are to be trained for work outside. It has been arranged for a trained instructor to come from England in the autumn and work at Baghdad for a year at training further Detachments. There will be three courses: (1) First Aid, (2) Home Nursing, (3) Simple hygiene and mothercraft, in which Volunteers must take certificates.

Lady Humphrys, the British Ambassadress, who is a life member and Vice-President of the Iraq Red Crescent Society, and who played an important part in its foundation, was present at the Royal reception.

The Pioneer Detachment, being the Princesses' own Detachment, has a crown and crescent in its badge. The princesses are holding regular working parties, at which attractive and useful garments are being made for distribution to Bedouin women and children who have suffered greatly through the recent drought. The Iraq Red Crescent Society has also distributed £250 to the sufferers.

It is certain that older Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will watch with interest and sympathy the work of the pioneers of Red Cross ideals in Iraq.

The Future of the Red Cross

The enormous disproportion, in the majority of countries, between Red Cross membership and the total population brings to light the vast field yet to be conquered before the Red Cross can hope to procure the degree of support and collaboration compatible with the magnitude of its present programme. This can only be achieved through judiciously organized and intensive propaganda, aimed not merely at enrolling new members but at casting down the barriers to Red Cross development presented by ignorance of its mission. When at last the public has come to realize the great task of the Red Cross in peace-time, a steady upward trend in the figures of membership enrolment will be witnessed. To achieve this a determined effort must be made to inculcate, as widely as possible, the idea that the Red Cross is the humanitarian instrument of all classes. It is absolutely essential to implant in the public consciousness the fact that the Red Cross is the disinterested servitor of mankind and, as such, is entitled to the interest and support of each member of the community.

Relief for the Impoverished Middle-Classes

There is one aspect of the world crisis which calls for especially delicate handling, and here the Red Cross enters upon a sphere which is peculiarly its own. The breakdown of the economic machine, while affecting all classes of the community to a greater or lesser extent, has been particularly disastrous to the middle-classes, for whom no provision is made in the State schemes for relief. Formerly the principal supporters of the Red Cross, these unhappy people have now become one of the worthiest objects of its solicitude.

Many of the national Societies are making determined efforts to mitigate the material distress of the "new poor" either by advancing loans, organizing free canteens—or, better still, providing them with food in their homes—, arranging auction sales for the disposal of their furniture and valuables, or procuring home work for them.

But this is not sufficient. Means must also be found of diverting their minds from the sad contemplation of their changed circumstances. Certain of the Societies are attempting to solve this problem by arranging social events for them, such as debating clubs, entertainments, theatrical performances and outings.

There can be no doubt that this is one of the most interesting and useful fields of Red Cross activity at the present time.

Government and Air Ambulances

For some years the Finnish Red Cross Society has paid special attention to the problem of air ambulance services and has been in contact both with the government and with civil air lines in an attempt to devise a suitable system. These efforts have now been rewarded by the decision of the Finnish Government to use their Coast Survey services for air ambulance traffic. The regulations issued by the government to cover the new service make first-aid training compulsory for the crews of aeroplanes so that they may be able to render first aid in case of accidents. The cost has been fixed low enough to compete favourably with other means of transport. The Finnish Red Cross is also pursuing its efforts to promote the adoption of a similar system by civil air lines.

The following are some of the provisions of the decree instituting the service: Patients have the right to be transported by air ambulance, in cases of emergency and when other means of conveyance are not available, to hospitals or maternity homes belonging to the government, the municipality or to private persons. Air ambulances may also be used for the conveyance of doctors and nurses to the sick.

The patient is liable for the cost of the journey when his means suffice and when the local community is not responsible.

The regulations stipulate that hospitals and maternity homes belonging to the government arrange transport from the landing ground to the institution. Where possible the request for an air ambulance is made by telephone or wireless to the Chief of Police, who thereupon notifies the district office. The request must be accompanied by a description of the landing place and general atmospheric conditions. The charge for transport by a small aeroplane is 1 mark 50, or, by a larger aeroplane, 3 marks per kilometer from the place where the patient is picked up to the place where he disembarks. (The Finnish mark is worth about 2 ½ cents).

Provision is made for the insurance of the doctor, nurse and patient during transit and the premium is added to the price of transport.

According to the regulations of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior governing the use of air ambulance services, the right to request an air ambulance is accorded to doctors, or, where no doctor is immediately available, to a nurse or midwife attached to a governmental, municipal or parish service. In sparsely populated or island districts, any reliable person may requisition an air ambulance in cases of complicated confinement, serious accident or sudden illness, excepting madness.

The Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies will be glad to furnish full details of the decree and regulations on request, as well as any other material on the same subject.

International Exchange of Patients

At the time of the inauguration of the Latvian Red Cross sanatorium at Tervete, the Polish Minister suggested that an exchange of patients might be organized between the Red Cross Societies of Poland and Latvia, on the principle that the institutions of each Society might act as complement to those of the other. The Polish Red Cross maintains a sanatorium at Zakopane, in the Carpathian Mountains, which would be a boon to Latvian patients needing the air of the heights, for no such establishment exists in Latvia. On the other hand, certain Polish patients might benefit by a stay in the lowland sanatorium at Tervete.

This ingenious proposal was greeted with enthusiasm by the Latvian Red Cross and the two Societies are now negotiating the terms of an agreement to this effect.

Post-War Assistance for Ex-Soldiers

The primary and essential function of the Red Cross—help to wounded or sick soldiers—by no means comes to an end with the signing of peace. Far from diminishing, the number of men still requiring Red Cross care as a result of war conditions is on the increase in certain countries, especially in the direction of tuberculosis and mental disorders.

The Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau recently prophesied that the number of mental cases will go on increasing until the peak is reached somewhere about 1947. In Canada, several thousands of war-wounded are still under treatment in the hospitals, while, in the United States, their numbers are legion.

The Future is Child of the Present

The throng is wont to imagine the future as a dim, mysterious goddess whose decrees are as inexorable as fate. To this somewhat facile philosophy, should we not rather prefer that of the poet who declared: "I am the master of my fate, the captain of my soul"? That the future is largely conditional upon the present is proved by the child, who enters upon life devoid of all prejudice and preconceived ideas. His mind is the plastic matter with which the Junior Red Cross is striving to mould the world of tomorrow, through the medium of a *mens sana in corpore sano.*

Cuban Hurricane Donation

It will be recalled that the Spanish Red Cross was among the first of the national Societies to manifest its sympathy for the Cuban hurricane sufferers, with a gift of 6,000 Pesetas. It has now come forward with a fresh donation of 1,500 Ptas. to be applied to the relief of the inhabitants of Vertientes (Camaguey).

BELGIUM

Young People's Hostels

The Junior Red Cross Section has placed its services at the disposal of all the Belgian groups concerned with the organization of young people's hostels with a view to eventual co-ordination of propaganda. The Red Cross will publish a list of all existing hostels with conditions of admission and will carry on an active campaign in its publications in support of the movement.

Training of Police

An increasing number of municipal authorities in Belgium are stipulating that the members of their local police force shall be holders of the Red Cross diploma in first aid. The towns of Jumet, Saint-Gilles and Bruges go one step further in demanding the Red Cross diploma in public helath.

Accident Preparedness

In conjunction with the State Railways, the Belgian Red Cross has recently staged a number of sham railway accidents with a view to testing the efficiency of its first-aid and relief services. These experiments were carried out with the utmost realism and proved entirely satisfactory from every point of view. The public and the press are following the demonstrations with the liveliest interest.

BULGARIA

Increased Membership

At a time when stagnation and depression are affecting every field of activity and the only advances are in unemployment figures, it is comforting to perceive the steady extension of the Red Cross movement all over the world, especially among youth. Fresh evidence of this healthy symptom is to be found in the report of the Bulgarian Junior Red Cross for the school year 1931-32 which records a present membership of 132,332 (1,820 groups), or 11,678 (118 groups) more than the preceding year. This increase is ascribed in the report to the growing need which is being felt in the schools for Junior Red Cross.

The programme of each group varies according to local needs and circumstances, but, in all of them, health propaganda is accorded first place. Next comes mutual aid and social welfare: 263 groups have helped needy pupils with gifts of clothing, free baths, tooth-brushes and railway tickets for excursions, while 175 have set up special funds for poor schoolchildren and for the maintenance of canteens and holiday camps. That the child's horizon is not bounded by the four walls of the class-room, however, is evidenced by the fact that 51 groups are extending aid to destitute families.

Other group activities are the cultivation of flower and vegetable gardens, the decoration and cleaning of class-rooms, the purchase of sanitary, medical and gymnastic equipment for the school, the destruction of harmful insects, the draining of marshes, the construction of boxes and shelters for birds, etc., Most of the groups have founded libraries and reading rooms.

The statutes of the Bulgarian Junior Red Cross have now been modified to enable the groups to retain 90 per cent of their income for group projects instead of turning over 25 per cent to headquarters as hitherto.

A circular letter has been addressed to all the groups by the Central Committee inviting them to open canteens for children of the unemployed.

CHILI

An Appeal for Peace

At the beginning of the New Year, the Central Committee of the Chilian Red Cross addressed to all the sister Societies of America a moving appeal for peace and spiritual union throughout the Continent.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Ten Years of Junior Activity

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the foundation of its Junior Section, the Czechoslovak Red Cross has just published a 110-page book entitled "*Ten Years of Junior Red Cross Activity 1921-1931*". The first eighty pages of this very handsome volume are devoted to a general review of the work of the Section during that period, followed by a brief account of the activities in each school where the Junior Red Cross programme has been introduced, illustrated by appropriate photographs. The remainder of the space is occupied by short articles, verses and anecdotes.

FINLAND

Sale of Matches to Raise Funds

The Finnish match factories have presented the Red Cross Society with 50,000 boxes of matches. Lady volunteers have come forward with the offer to decorate these boxes, which will subsequently be sold at two marks apiece for the benefit of Red Cross funds.

GERMANY

International Friendship

The following letter, included by a German teacher in an album of school correspondence prepared by his pupils for an American group, is but another striking example of the appreciation shown by educators for the Junior Red Cross as a factor in world understanding and good comradeship:

"The fine movement represented by the Junior Red Cross was something quite new for the children here. Now, for the first time, they are starting correspondence with children in a foreign land. They have taken great pains to collect all the pictures, to give you pleasure and to thank you for your greetings...

You will probably be struck by the fact that these children are very similar to yourselves, with the same troubles and the same joys. That is why it is such a splendid thing that the Junior Red Cross idea can throw a bridge from land to land, create understanding and comradeship and bring hearts closer together. I am convinced that there is, in the world, much more goodwill towards understanding than would appear to be the case from the newspapers. We, a small group in a tiny, obscure village, extend our hands to you in token of our earnest desire for friendship."

GREAT BRITAIN

Air Ambulance Detachments

The British Red Cross has decided to enter upon a new sphere of activity, viz., to train personnel capable of transporting sick and injured persons by air and to supply a reserve, if required, in times of emergency.

Men and women recruited for air ambulance service will be organized in detachments composed, in the normal way, of: one commandant, three pilots, two ground engineers, two mechanics and one clerk. Smaller detachments may, however, be formed of one commandant, one pilot, one ground engineer and one mechanic. Every member of an air ambulance detachment must hold a First Aid certificate and have received proper training as a stretcher-bearer. Each officer and member of a detachment shall receive instruction annually in First Aid.

Proof of competency in flying and in the inspection and repairing of aircraft will consist in the personnel having passed the respective tests prescribed by the Air Navigation Regulations.

The Society already owns two aeroplanes. It does not contemplate acquiring more at present but, in accordance with the recommendations of the XIVth International Red Cross Conference, will investigate the means whereby ordinary machines might be rapidly converted into emergency air ambulances by the installation of contrivances for receiving stretchers.

Red Cross Day

The anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, May 12th, which is Red Cross Day throughout the Empire, will be celebrated on a much more elaborate scale by the British Red Cross Society this year.

Permission has been granted for a flag day throughout the London area, and Red Cross branches are organising displays of their peace-time work.

More than £10,000 was raised last Red Cross Day in England and Wales.

GREECE

A Year of Service

The Greek Red Cross has forwarded to the League Secretariat an extract from the report on the year's work just turned in by the regional Junior Red Cross committee at Patras. This report adds another chapter to the inspiring record of personal service which children all over the world are rendering to other children under the ægis of the Red Cross banner. If all the Greek Juniors are as enterprising as their comrades at Patras, disease and suffering should soon become almost extinct in Greece!

Here, compressed into a few lines, is what these energetic young folk have accomplished in the space of twelve months:

1) Founded a school dispensary at a cost of 20,000 drachmae.

2) Distributed cod liver oil to needy school-children affected with glandular troubles.

3) Purchased healing lotions for schoolmates suffering from affections of the eyes.

4) Distributed 15 kilograms of quinine to malarial children.

5) Contributed 1,000 drachmae to the Patras Children's Colony to enable it to admit smaller children.

6) Set up school pharmacies in all the secondary schools of Patras.

7) Purchased nearly sixty footballs for school athletics, such articles not being provided from school funds.

Junior Magazine as School Reader

Encouraging news is received from Greece of the esteem in which the Junior Red Cross is held in official circles. The Education Committee of the Greek Ministry of Public Instruction, at a recent session, approved the utilization of the Junior Red Cross magazine in the state schools as an official reader, "for the reason that this magazine, with its interesting and instructive contents, its attractive illustrations and its general artistic appearance is liable to prove of the utmost value in the education of the pupils of these schools".

HOLLAND

Nightingale Memorial

The inaugural meeting of the Florence Nightingale International Memorial Committee of Holland was held on January 14th. This Committee was called through the initiative of the Dutch Red Cross and the Dutch Nurses' Association to create interest in and raise funds for a Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Eleven different associations took part in the meeting, when a scholarship of £250 was guaranteed for the International Courses to be held at Bedford College for the Session 1933-34.

HUNGARY

Forest Home for Poor Children

The Hungarian Junior Red Cross has now completed the erection of its Forest Home at Gödöllö. For the greater part of the year, this establishment will serve as an open-air school under the direction of the National Institute for Hygiene, while, during the vacations, it will be occupied as a recreation home by 35 to 40 poor children of Budapest as guests of the Junior Red Cross.

The site for the building was presented to the Junior Red Cross by the Ministry of Agriculture, while the Ministries of Public Welfare and of Education contributed 8,000 and 25,000 pengös respectively towards construction costs. The town council of Gödöllö has agreed to assume the expense of heating, lighting and cleaning the establishment.

Magazine Supplements

The Hungarian Junior Red Cross magazine now contains two supplements, one entitled "Official News of the Hungarian Red Cross Society", the other "A Teachers' Guide". The latter contains many useful suggestions for activities in addition to those which appear each month in the Junior Red Cross calendar. In December, for instance, teachers were invited to encourage their pupils to collect firewood for needy families to help tide them over the cold spell. Many groups followed this suggestion by bringing to school small quantities of wood or kindling which were piled up in the school yard until the quantity was sufficiently large for distribution.

INDIA

Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign

The campaign against tuberculosis conducted by the Indian Red Cross as mandatory of the "King George Thanksgiving Fund" is making steady progress. Eight new provincial committees have now been formed in addition to the five already existing.

Some of the committees, not content with pursuing intensive educational propaganda, have undertaken an active crusade against the scourge. The Punjab Committee, for example, has appointed a technical sub-committee to conduct an investigation into the incidence of tuberculosis at Lahore and to determine the methods most suitable for arresting its progress. A similar enquiry is being set on foot by two doctors attached to the Delhi Committee, which has also organized medical inspections in girls' and boys' schools. Any cases of under-nourishment detected among the pupils are immediately notified to the parents. This same committee has approached the educational authorities with a view to having instruction in hygiene incorporated in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools.

Change of President

In view of the departure from India of Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith and his consequent retirement from the Chairmanship of the Indian Red Cross Society—a post which he had held since October 1925—His Excellency the Viceroy has appointed Sir David Petrie, Kt., C. I. E., C. V. O., C. B. E. to succeed him.

ITALY

Collaboration for Relief

When a fire broke out recently at Palermo, burning seven persons to death and injuring many others, Red Cross first-aid detachments and motor-ambulances were requisitioned to deal with the emergency.

The autorities of the town of Palermo and the relatives of the victims were warm in their praise of the prompt and efficacious intervention of the Palermo Red Cross committee. The captain of the local fire brigade stressed the desirability of establishing the closest possible collaboration between the Red Cross detachments and the fire brigade.

New Garage for Ambulances

Several months ago, reference was made in the League's publication to a scheme evolved by the Italian Red Cross for the construction of a model garage in Rome to house its ever-growing fleet of motor-ambulances. This scheme has now crystallized in the shape of a magnificent edifice situated in a busy thoroughfare near the heart of the city. This central situation represents an important factor in the promptness and efficiency of the ambulance service.

The general architectural plan is admirable. To the left of the main entrance is a wing containing the telephone exchange with several lines operating day and night, the staff room and the first-aid post, to which is attached a sick-bay for the personnel and for victims of accidents whose condition renders their immediate transfer to hospital inadvisable. At the right of the main porch are the general offices.

The forty new motor-ambulances are lined up in a spacious hall, at the entrance to which are two automatic petrol pumps, an electric tyre-pump and an electric device for filling water-tanks. An elaborate system of protection against fire has been installed throughout the premises. The repair sheds are equipped in the most up-to-date manner and a separate pavilion has been provided for the re-charging of batteries and accumulators. The living-quarters are arranged with the utmost regard for the comfort and well-being of the personnel.

Surmounting the main porch is a big clock, on the dial of which is a luminous Red Cross.

The garage took eight months to construct.

Free Soup for the Poor

Last Christmas Day was an occasion for rejoicing among the poor of Garbatella, a populous district of Rome, for that was the date chosen by the Italian Red Cross for the inauguration of a soup kitchen for their benefit. Although this activity lies somewhat outside its customary sphere, the Society felt it its duty to respond, to the best of its ability, to the wish expressed by Signor Mussolini that everyone throughout the Kingdom should have at least a bowl of soup to eat.

The canteen will provide two hundred portions of soup daily to the poor of the district throughout the winter months.

Rest Home for Nurses

The nurses of the Italian Red Cross have acquired a rest home at Fiesole, above Florence. The house, with its flowered terrace and pergola, is situated in a sheltered spot on the hillside and commands a magnificent view. The Queen, the Princess of Piedmont and the Duchess of Aosta each contributed a "stone" to the edifice, which is the fruit of four years of patient effort and self-sacrifice on the part of the nurses and their wellwishers.

Fight against Malaria

With a view to easing the overcrowding in certain rural areas of Italy, efforts are being made by the State to colonize such sparsely populated territories as the now reclaimed Pontine Marshes. The Italian Red Cross is assuming the no light task of freeing the region from malaria and making it safe for the settlers. As a first step in this direction, it has organized a service to safeguard the health of the labourers engaged in the work of draining the marshes, and is undertaking periodical inspections of the houses constructed by the settlers in the new town of Littoria to ensure that they remain habitable and free from any risk of contamination. This is an activity which is likely to go on growing for some years to come, since the Government is projecting the building of two more towns in the Marshes in 1935.

MEXICO

An Active Society

In a recent letter to the League Secretariat, the Mexican Red Cross briefly outlined its principal activities, and, as this report gives an excellent perspective of the Society's organization and achievements, we are reproducing it in tabloid form.

The Mexican Red Cross attaches particular importance to the care of sick and injured, and to preparedness for the disasters which are unhappily of such frequent occurence on the American continent.

Spacious premises have now been acquired in Mexico City where it is proposed to instal the administrative and technical services of the Society, including a hospital and a first-aid post.

The Red Cross ambulance service has ramifications all over the country and is everywhere accomplishing its humane task of conveying patients to the Red Cross and State hospitals.

The School of Nurses, attached to the Red Cross hospital in the capital, arranges two types of courses, each of two years' duration, given by doctors and surgeons from the Medical Faculty.

The Red Cross is aided in its work by a number of other charitable institutions, including the crêche, children's home, lying-in hospital, refuge for mothers, the home nursing service, and so forth.

The Junior Red Cross Section has lately received fresh impetus by the action of the Ministry of Public Instruction in approving its statutes and appointing a permanent delegate on its committee. Thanks to this official consecration, the movement is rapidly extending all over the country and now forms an integral part of the educational system in the capital.

The Mexican Red Cross Review, which had been suspended for a time on account of financial difficulties, has now resumed publication for the greater edification of the public in matters pertaining to the Red Cross.

The letter concludes with warm praise of the magnificent efforts of the Red Cross Ladies' subcommittees. As may be seen, the keynote of this report is Collaboration: collaboration between the Red Cross and the State, collaboration between the Red Cross and private associations, collaboration between the Junior Red Cross and the educational authorities, and, last but not least, the collaboration of persons of good will in carrying the beneficent influence of the Red Cross into every town, village and home of the Mexican territory.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

New Chapter Headquarters

The Philippines Chapter of the American Red Cross has at last realized its long-cherished dream of having a home of its own. Last Armistice Day, Governor-General Roosevelt, surrounded by all the leading notabilities of the Islands, dedicated the new headquarters building, while Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Manual L. Quezon, wife of the President of the Philippine Senate, sealed the cornerstone. Congratulatory messages were read from Judge Payne, Chairman of the American Red Cross, from the War Department in Washington and from Prince Tokugawa, President of the Japan Red Cross. Dr. B. Y. Wong, Director-General of the Red Cross of China, personally delivered the felicitations of his society.

The building is designed in the Spanish Mission style, and cost approximately $25,000 to construct. In the patio is a Japanese garden, the gift of the Japanese community. The interior is spacious and well appointed. There are quarters for the volunteer production groups, for the nursing and health staffs and for the Junior Red Cross. The first floor is occupied by the general offices.

POLAND

Medical Aid for Workless

For unemployed persons having forfeited the right to sickness benefit through inability to continue their subscriptions to the Social Insurance Fund, the Polish Red Cross has organized a system of free medical aid.

Several of the local Red Cross committees have established health services in connexion with the provincial and urban committees for relief to unemployed. In certain cases, relief is only partial or restricted to children, but, more often than not, fre e medical care is extended to adults as well and comprises medicines. Occasionally, investigations into the health and material circumstances of unemployed families are conducted by volunteers, usually nurses' aids, attached to the Red Cross.

Thanks to the voluntary collaboration of 62 doctors, 18 surgeon-dentists, six male nurses, four midwives and several nurses' aids, the Red Cross committee at Czestochowa is able to cope with all the medical needs of the local unemployed and their dependents. Applications for assistance are registered at three offices, installed in town and suburbs, and referred to the competent practitioner according to the nature of the care required and the domicile of the applicant. The committee has already ensured the treatment of 24,843 patients, either in the doctors' consulting rooms or at home.

SIAM

Organization of a Lottery

The Government of Siam has accorded its sanction to the holding of a lottery by the Siamese Red Cross Society. The lottery will be drawn at the Red Cross Day festival in April next. Half of the proceeds will be awarded as prizes, while the remainder will be shared between the Society and the hospitals of Bangkok.

Red Cross Day

In connexion with Red Cross Day, the Siamese Junior Red Cross Section has invited its members to compete for prizes which be offered for health and propaganda posters, inter-school correspondence albums, service records, theatricals, first aid, physical drill, cooking, organized games and handicrafts.

SPAIN

Changes in Central Committee

The Central Committee of the Spanish Red Cross has been entirely reconstituted and its officers are now as follows :

Hon. President: The President of the Republic.

President: H. E. Lieut.-General Don Ricardo Burguete Lana.

Vice-President: Dr. Sadi de Buen y Lozano, Inspector-General of Health Institutions, official representative of the Ministry of the Interior.

Secretary: Señor Juan Pedro Criado y Dominguez.

The post of Treasurer still remains to be filled, but Señor Vicente Cebrian is occupying it until a permanent nominee has been found.

Junior Red Cross Museum

The Spanish Junior Red Cross museum of interschool correspondence and school work exchanged by Juniors in different lands, which is a rendez-vous of teachers and pupils from all the schools of Madrid, has now been considerably enlarged.

The Section has also organized a library where members may consult the Junior magazines of other countries and newspaper-clippings describing the activities of children all over the world.

Another original initiative of the Junior Red Cross in Spain is the loan of chemistry apparatus and equipment to schools unable to purchase such material for themselves, so that Juniors attending these schools may carry out the experiments required by their studies of physics.

UNITED STATES

Flood Relief Carries on

In spite of the heavy demands on its aid for unemployment relief, the American Red Cross still manages to fulfil the current needs of disaster relief. News just received shows that the Hinds County Chapter is caring for approximately 450 refugees from the territory flooded by the sudden rise of the Pearl River.

A Red Cross field representative was sent to the spot to direct the operations and institute a campaign for funds.

Unemployment Relief

The advent of the New Year saw the last of the 40,000,000 bushels of wheat appropriated by Congress and a good start made in the conversion and distribution of the second wheat appropriation of 45,000,000 bushels. At the close of business on January 7th, requisitions had been received for a total of 7,673,085 barrels of flour. By December 30th, requisitions had been received for 56,371,790 yards of cloth supplied out of the cotton donation voted by Congress.

The national unemployment emergency continues. It is estimated that from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 persons are out of work. However, the present depression is peculiar in that there is no lack of either food or clothing, of which there is a surplus. It bears hardest upon business and professional classes, and upon people in industrial centres.

The Juniors attached to a certain American Red Cross chapter devised an ingenious plan for helping the adult members who are engaged in converting cotton cloth into garments for the unemployed. They undertook to collect enough buttons, thread and other accessories to complete the garments without additional cost. This resulted in quite an appreciable saving for the Chapter budget and other groups are now taking up the idea.

Surplus Navy and Army Clothing

By recent Act of Congress, the Secretaries of the Army and Navy Departments have been authorized "to sell at nominal prices to recognized charitable organizations such non-regulation and excess clothing as may be available and required for distribution to the needy". It is stipulated that this clothing shall not be re-sold but given free of charge to persons in want. Several of the American Red Cross chapters have taken advantage of this offer in connexion with their activities on behalf of the unemployed. The prices range from three cents for a pair of woollen socks to $1 for an overcoat; a whole winter outfit can be had for something less than two dollars!

YUGOSLAVIA

A Year of Progress

The report on the activities of the Junior Red Cross in Yugoslavia just issued, covering the school year 1931-32, constitutes an encouraging record of progress. In the first place, we learn that the membership has grown steadily during the last nine years from 97,805, in 1923-24, to the present figure of 355,230 (the latter being an increase of 21,242 over that for the preceding year).

Junior Red Cross is now firmly established in 3,434 schools (including 362 secondary and high schools) and in 11,204 classes. The number of playgrounds and libraries organized by the Juniors is 959 and 721 respectively. In the course of the last school year, many opportunities arose for the practice of those virtues of human fellowship and service to others which are the corner-stones of the Junior Red Cross programme. That these opportunities were not neglected is evident from the fact that 39,565 undernourished children were provided with meals in the school canteens run by the Juniors, while 12,656 were assisted in other ways.

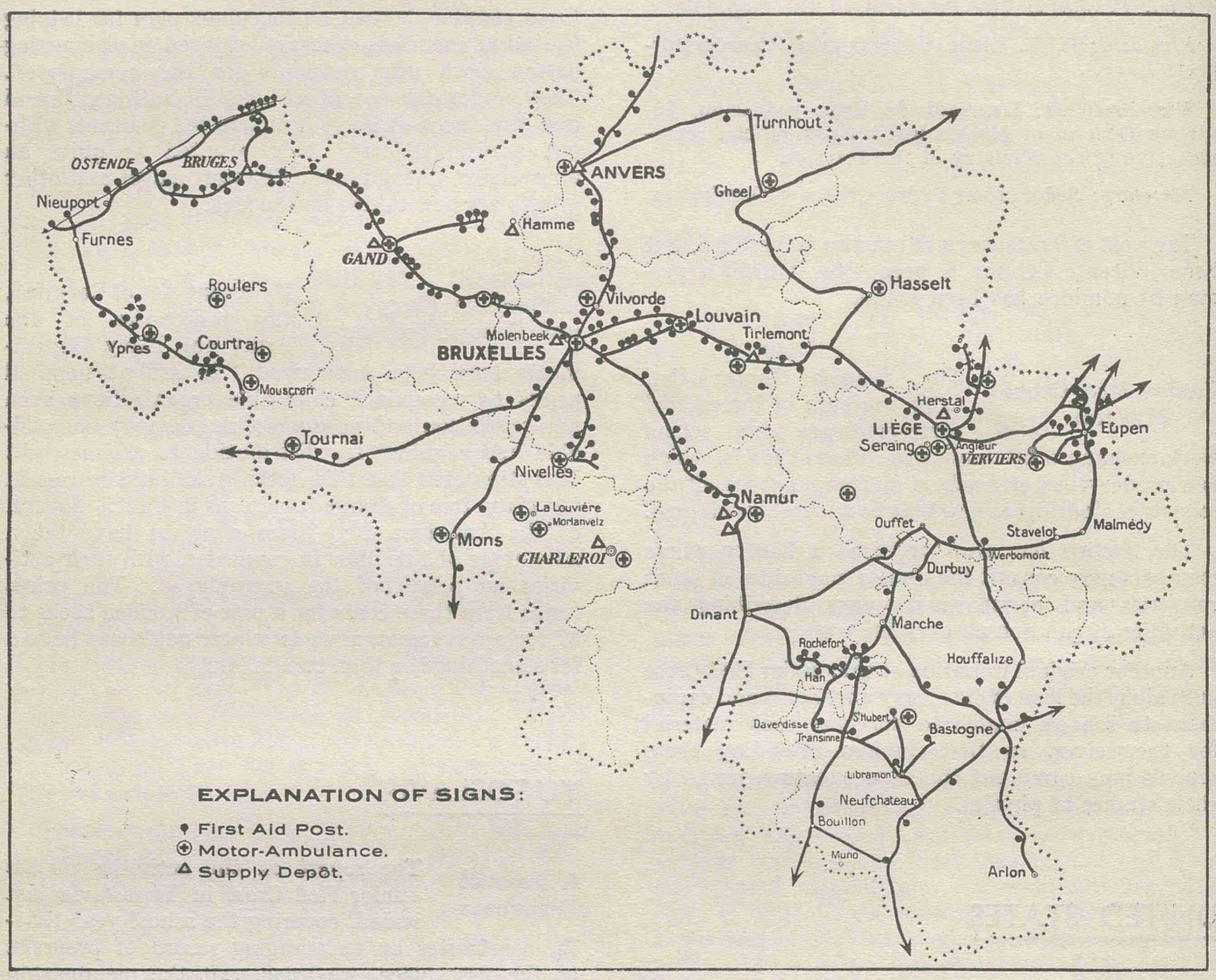
Fêtes, concerts, lectures and other manifestations organized by the Juniors during the same period numbered 2,119. Exchanges of inter-school correspondence have continued brisk, 12,020 items being despatched as against 7,847 received.

The Yugoslav Junior Red Cross magazine now has 3,975 paying subscribers.

FIRST AID ON THE BELGIAN HIGHWAYS

By Mr. E. DRONSART,

Director-General of the Belgian Red Cross



TOPOGRAPHY OF FIRST AID POSTS ON THE PRINCIPAL BELGIAN HIGHWAYS.

AMONG the more recent peace-time activities to claim the attention of the Red Cross, none, perhaps, has taken on so rapid an extension as first aid on highways. So patent was this to the XIVth International Red Crooss Conference, when it met in Brussels in 1930, that it felt obliged to make provision for the setting up of a Standing International Commission for First Aid on Highways to guide the efforts of the national Societies.

Twenty-nine Red Cross Societies are now engaged in this activity and all have taken the recommendations of the Commission as the general basis thereof. The road maps of twelve countries bear the special sign adopted by the Commission to indicate the position of first-aid posts, while the road guides of five countries contain a description of the manner in which the posts function.

Moreover, agreements have been reached between certain of the Red Cross Societies and the national touring associations defining the respective sphere of each in this direction and establishing the basis of collaboration.

The experience acquired by the Red Cross of my country in this connexion may possibly be of some interest to all those who are engaged in similar work.

Seven years have passed since the first posts for dealing with road accidents were set up in Belgium. During that time, they have been gradually extending over the whole of the national territory and now number upwards of 500.

Have these posts justified the hopes which their originators placed in them? Do they fill a genuine need? Are they open to improvement? These are the questions confronting us at the end of this seven years' trial period. For, let there be no misapprehension on this score, we are still at the experimental stage. Thus far, the results have been entirely satisfactory, but that does not necessarily imply

that the service is perfect. It is futile to disguise the fact that the organization of first aid on roads in one of the most complex problems facing the national Red Cross societies today.

There is obviously nothing very complicated in setting up a post and equipping it with a stretcher, a medicine chest and a blanket. What is less simple, however, is to guarantee its constant functioning and methodical supervision, to replenish the stores at the psychological moment and to maintain at concert pitch the zeal and efficiency of the man in charge.

We cannot too strongly warn novices against the obstacles which they will be called upon to surmount.

In Belgium, the problem presented itself, perhaps, in a less acute form than in most other countries, for here the Red Cross is the recognized relief agency and first aid on highways was merely regarded as one more cog in a familiar machine.

The emergency relief services of the Belgian Red Cross consist not only of first-aid posts on the highways and at other danger points: the Society also maintains thirty permanent motor-ambulance units covering the whole area of the Kingdom, in addition to regional depôts of relief material, boat-houses and pavilions dotted all along the coast and the river-banks for rescuing and resuscitating drowning persons. Thus, our first-aid posts on the highways are closely linked with our motor-ambulance services, and this greatly enhances their efficiency.

The success which has attended this enterprise is attributed by the Belgian Red Cross to two principles which were adopted from the very outset: First and foremost, the general organization of the posts is the sole responsibility of the Central Committee, which assumes all the costs of installation, whereas the working details, supervision, supplies and training of personnel are incumbent on the local sections. We are becoming more and more convinced of the value of this principle of decentralization.

Finally, it has from the first been understood that the guardians of our posts should give their services free of charge. We have never had cause to regret this decision; no difficulty has thus far arisen and the system helps to obviate abuses.

It is only fair to add that the smallness of our country lends itself to the adoption of methods which would be impracticable elsewhere.

We are fully alive to our responsibilities and are determined to succeed. With this end in view, we shall continue as in the past to adhere closely to the measures recommended by the Standing International Commission for First Aid on Highways, the existence of which has enabled permanent and useful contacts to be established between all the national Societies and the touring associations. We shall constantly bear in mind the advice given us by competent persons who encounter obstacles and suggest possible reforms, and shall thereby hope to bring about a progressive evolution of this service, the imperative necessity for which is daily growing more apparent.

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND JUNIORS AT WORK

At a moment when several of the National Societies are preparing to meet at Prague in solemn congress, a brief account of the remarkable degree of development attained by the Junior Red Cross in Czechoslovakia may not be altogether devoid of topical interest.

The Czechoslovak Juniors appear to make a point of honour of keeping alive the traditions of hospitality which have from time immemorial characterized their race. During the World War, an association of charitable persons was formed in Bohemia, each member of which undertook to receive a destitute child at his or her table. In the troublous times through which the world is now passing, the younger generation are following the example of their elders by opening the doors of their homes to less fortunate comrades whose out-of-work parents are unable to provide them with adequate nourishment. Children who arrive at school with a well-filled luncheon basket lose no time in sharing its contents with those of their fellows who have brought nothing and are reduced to watching the others eat in silent despair. For their hungry brothers and sisters at home, too, there is always an extra sandwich or an apple at the bottom of the basket. "When I see the sad eyes and careworn faces of our neighbours", writes one child, "I feel so unhappy. I always share my midday meal with their little boy, and each morning I give him a roll of bread. My parents say they would give him much more if they could afford it".

Apart from this activity, to which has been given the charming name of "national hospitality", the Juniors seek other means of mitigating the plight of children of unemployed. Certain of the groups have appealed to the

Parent's Association, which has agreed to accord them a monthly grant for the purchase of garments, shoes and milk for their comrades. In a school at Olomuc, two little girls take turns in subjecting the clothes of needy pupils to a weekly inspection and mending them if necessary.

It frequently happens that a school in a prosperous district "adopts" another school in the mountains or in a desolate part of the country. The pupils of the "fostermother" school write letters to their protegés, send them small gifts, clothing, school equipment, and never fail to remember them at Christmas time. From this took birth the idea of schoolchildren in fertile areas sending crates of fruit to the barren mountain schools. This scheme possesses the double advantage of inculcating in the children the spirit of service and brotherly aid, and of teaching them the importance of fruit in a healthy dietary.

There is another tradition which is very dear to the hearts of the Czechoslovak Juniors, and that is—veneration for the old. The Red Cross "Truce" proclaimed each year by the Czechoslovak Red Cross adopted as its device last year: "Honour the Aged". While the Truce lasted, Juniors paid visits to the inmates of alms-houses, performed small tasks for old people of their acquaintance and wrote letters of congratulation to aged veterans. When invited to make suggestions as to the best means of helping the old, the Juniors gave evidence of a high degree of imagination. Some proposed founding well-heated clubs where old ladies could knit while listening in to the wireless. Others offered to read aloud to those with failing sight and suggested that the public libraries should stock books with large type for the tired eyes of elderly people. And here is the touching thought expressed by several of the Juniors: "Old people should never be left alone at holiday times".

In the execution of every phase of their programme, the Czechoslovak Juniors show proof of a very highly-developed social sense and spirit of organization. This is doubtless one of the principal reasons for the continual growth of the movement in that country, to which the present membership figure of 500,700 bears witness. Some idea of the social spirit animating these young people may be gained from the fact that, in the course of the last decade, they have expended the imposing sum of 4,324,000 Czech crowns on projects for aiding needy children.

The efforts of the Juniors in the field of hygiene range from dental care to cleanliness in the school. Part of the funds which they collect is sometimes devoted to paying the fees of a dentist to examine the pupils' teeth at regular intervals. The improvement of the school environment is a matter of grave preoccupation for them. Almost everywhere, we find the Juniors saving up to purchase the vacuum cleaners, cupboards, lockers and wash-basins which the Junior Red Cross lends them temporarily on condition that they are turned to good use. A merciless campaign is waged against dust and, in several of the schools, the pupils change into slippers on arrival so as to avoid bringing dirt and microbes from the street into the classroom whose gleaming floors they are responsible for polishing. Untidiness is sternly reproved. In some of the classes, Juniors who leave things lying about after lessons are made to pay a fine which goes to swell the fund raised to provide summer outings for poor pupils. The "Health Game" is, of course, practised with enthusiasm.

That the school should be clean is a great step in the right direction, but it is not enough for these zealous young reformers. It must be bright and cheerful as well. Most of the Juniors are enthusiastic horticulturists; in pots, window-boxes, in the school garden, they lovingly tend flowers for the subsequent adornment of the classroom. Some groups organize periodical flower shows, which are invariably well patronized by an indulgent public. Who, in Czechoslovakia, has not heard of the Junior Red Cross dahlias and cactuses? Other groups prefer to cultivate kitchen gardens, the produce of which is either used in the school canteen, sent to the hospitals or sold for the benefit of J. R. C. funds. The parent organization provides seed and implements to groups desiring to take up this branch of activity, and arranges gardening competitions. Last year, sixtyfour of the schools in Prague were awarded diplomas at one of these contests.

It must not be supposed that the activities of the Czech Juniors are confined to purely national projects. Few European sections can lay claim to such a wide circle of foreign acquaintances and friends; if the Juniors of Czechoslovakia are today in touch with the children of twentyfive different lands, it is thanks to their diligence in the matter of inter-school correspondence.

Another manifestation of that spirit of organization to which reference has already been made in this article is to be found in the number of meetings and congresses arranged by the Czechoslovak Juniors. In 1924, an international congress brought together in Prague members of Junior Red Cross sections from several European countries; in 1930 and 1932, delegates of regional groups, whose ages ranged from 11 to 14, met to discuss problems of mutual interest.

The Czechoslovak Junior Section is constantly on the look-out for new and attractive methods of stimulating the activities of its youthful members. The literary competitions are particularly appreciated, and the money prizes frequently offered in this connexion are devoted to group projects. During the last school year,

8,966 Juniors took part in such competitions.

There is another way in which the Czechoslovak Junior Red Cross encourages the literary efforts of the young. One of its magazines: "*Nase Prace*" (Our Work) is made up almost exclusively of articles contributed by Juniors, in which they describe their activities and aspirations. The Section issues half a score of other reviews reaching a total circulation of 96,000 copies per month. In addition, it publishes collections of anecdotes, folk songs, stories by famous authors, plays, fairy tales, health manuals, etc., These books go the round of the affiliated schools on the same principle as circulating libraries. For the benefit of high school pupils, a special series is now being published dealing with the lives of great men of all nations. The first volume is devoted to the explorer, Fridtjof Nansen.

This is not the only attempt on the part of the Section to interest high school pupils in Junior Red Cross. It has also organized courses in first aid and care of the sick for them. Unfortunate incidents which arose in certain secondary schools recently provided an opportunity for Junior Red Cross intervention. As a result of set-backs in their studies, several of the pupils, giving way to discouragement, decided to leave home and fell victims to the blackest despair. The Junior Red Cross thereupon launched an appeal to all adolescents exhorting them to keep up their courage and energy and to lend their moral support to those of their comrades whom a momentary set-back might unduly depress.

The Section is endeavouring to pave the way for the future development of Junior Red Cross by making known its aims and programme to the masters and pupils of teachers' training schools, for whom courses have also been arranged by the Red Cross in nutrition, first aid, home nursing and gardening.

Meetings of young teachers, members of the Red Cross, are called at intervals to discuss problems relating to Junior Red Cross and teaching. Special courses, too, are arranged for schoolmasters liable to be called upon to collaborate with the directors of Red Cross holiday camps, and visits are organized to these camps. Upwards of 4,000 persons have already taken these different courses and thus been afforded the opportunity, not only of acquiring useful technical knowledge but of gaining a wider conception of the work of the Junior Red Cross and of its infinite possibilities as an adjunct to school life.

THE RED CROSS AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

As the knowledge of preventive medicine has grown, as the public has become more and more conscious of the preventive and social aspect of disease, the rôle of the nurse, originally confined to the care of the sick, has gradually changed, and she has come to be recognized as an indispensable factor in the education of the public in the simple laws of healthy living.

The formation of the League of Red Cross Societies in 1919, with its definite peacetime mission, gave a great impetus to the Red Cross to extend its activities into the field of health. Of the 58 Societies members of the League there are few, if any, which have not initiated public health work in some form or another. This varies from courses in the elements of hygiene, the establishment of simple health centres, to the extensive organization of a public health programme covering a whole country.

The Red Cross nurse, therefore, has a very considerable rôle to play, and is an indispensable factor in the successful carrying out of this mission. Her activities are many and various—under the direction of a doctor she cares for the sick in their homes; she guides the mother in the care of her health and that of her baby; she follows up the young child until it enters the school; takes care of the cripple or handicapped child; plays an important part in the school medical service; is invaluable in the control of communicable diseases; is an important factor in the campaign against tuberculosis; is to be found in the factory caring for the health of the worker; in short, she is to be found in every situation where the health of the individual, of the family, or of the community is at stake.

The Red Cross nurse, who is called upon to carry out any or all of these important functions, unquestionably requires a special preparation. In countries where well-organized schools of nursing exist, where there are post-graduate courses for nurses to permit them to specialize in the various branches of public health work, the Red Cross is able to recruit its public health nurses from these schools. In many countries in Europe and the Far East, the Red Cross has taken the initiative in the training of the nurse, and throughout her training importance is attached to the preventive and social aspect of

her work. In this way the Red Cross has provided itself with a trained nursing personnel able to carry out its obligations in the field of health.

In countries where, as yet, modern schools of nursing are still lacking, the problem is a very real one and the Red Cross is under an obligation to use the whole weight of its influence with the Government to bring about the establishment of such schools organized upon a sound educational basis.

The importance of this question was realized by the Health Section of the League of Nations when it called a European conference in 1931 to discuss the organization of public health in rural districts. The "Report of the Preparatory Committee (League of Nations—European Conference on Rural Hygiene)" forms a valuable guide to Red Cross Societies engaged in rural health work. It was the unanimous opinion of the conference that the nurse was an indispensable factor and that her preparation should be such as would enable her to give all the various types of care which might be demanded of her in rural and isolated districts. One of the results has been that the Health Section of the League of Nations has undertaken a study of the preparation of the nurse for public health work, and its report will be awaited with interest by all Red Cross Societies engaged in public health nursing.

In Czechoslovakia the Public Health Nursing Service forms one of the most important activities of the Red Cross. There are 167 Red Cross health centres in Moravia, Bohemia, Slovakia and Ruthenia staffed by nurses and social workers. In the City of Prague the "Health Service in Families", organized by a committee on which the Red Cross, the City of Prague and the Ministry of Social Welfare are represented, is staffed by Red Cross nurses.

The Latvian Red Cross, one of the first organizations in the field after the War, and with the full support of its Government, established a Public Health Nursing Service in the regions devastated by the War. This Service, which to-day includes 50 health centres, supported by local Chapters, a large proportion of which are in rural areas, is to be found in all parts of Latvia, especially where the need is greatest. Beginning in the early days with maternity and child welfare work, these Centres have extended their activities into school hygiene, and their success may be said to be due, to a very large extent, to the importance which the Latvian Red Cross has attached to the training of its public health nursing personnel. All are nurses with a sound basic training in the care of the sick, with additional training in public health, and all those whose work lies in isolated rural districts are also qualified midwives.

The Siamese Red Cross was one of the first to recognize its responsibility and established a number of health centres which serve at the same time as training centres for the public health nurses.

In Japan, the Red Cross is attaching more and more importance to public health nursing. Eighteen local Chapters have organized services. The Japanese Red Cross nurse plays an important part in the campaign against tuberculosis, and in the school medical service where 120 are to be found working in 184 schools.

It is twenty years ago that the American Red Cross created its public health nursing Service in small towns and rural areas. It was first undertaken as a demonstration in communities where, as yet, no other organizations were working, the idea being to withdraw as soon as the public conscience was awakened to the need and the work could be carried out through official channels. This early policy was later changed and emphasis is now laid upon the permanent participation of the Red Cross in the Public Health Nursing Service of the community. In twenty years the American Red Cross has built up a Red Cross Nursing Service which includes 585 services, sixty per cent of which are rural and all of which are organized through its local Chapters.

With the changed economic conditions, a slacking of local support and a cutting down of personnel might have been expected. On the contrary, so the last Annual Report of the American Red Cross tells us, in spite of the depression, the Society finds the need for its Public Health Nursing Service more pronounced than ever before, and the response from the local Chapters has been almost without precedent.

In other countries the Red Cross is shouldering its responsibility in a way comparable with that of the American Red Cross.

Only a few examples can be cited, for it is scarcely possible to do justice to the work being done by the various Red Cross Societies which, through good organization and foresight, find themselves in a strong position to face the menace to health arising from the universal economic depression. Those with well organized public health nursing services have, in the public health nurse, by the very nature of her work and the contact with the family, an invaluable instrument at their disposal.

Of all the different activities undertaken by Red Cross Societies there is probably none which creates a wider interest, which arouses more enthusiasm or which wins public support more readily than that of the public health nurse who goes into the home, caring for the sick and carrying her message of health. She is to be found everywhere, in the cities of Japan, in the villages of India, in the far Northern and often isolated parts of Canada, in Europe and Africa, travelling on horseback, by sleigh, ski or aeroplane as the case may be, in all winds and all weathers, undaunted by difficulties. She is the very embodiment of the Red Cross peacetime mission.

THE FAMILY AND THE CHILD

THE problem of unemployment is so vast and so paralyzing by its very magnitude that it is no condemnation of the Red Cross to say that a complete and satisfactory solution is beyond its powers. It is as well to recognize this at once and to recognize, too, that even in the most favourable circumstances the great industrial countries of the world will probably be left with a large percentage of their present unemployed. But once this is acknowledged, and once it is acknowledged that the problem as a whole is beyond the scope of the Red Cross, there is no excuse for despair and less for inaction. A problem that will not yield to a frontal attack may be solved perhaps by following the advice of the Prince of Wales ''that we could do something to help in the most baffling and terrible of all our domestic problems if we would break it up into little pieces and refuse to be paralysed by its size''. The great need is to employ every means in our power—time, money and intelligence—to make some impression on unemployment as it confronts us locally. And this is where the local Red Cross section can play a tremendously valuable part. Let the local section take some aspect of the main problem, set itself some definite aim that is within its power and solve that. It will then have made its contribution to the wider solution.

Now there is one sphere in which the Red Cross had already proved its worth even before the world crisis and where any action it takes will have an immediate effect in alleviating present distress and in mitigating the worst effects of the crisis on the future generation. The sphere is that of aid to the families and particularly the younger children of the unemployed. The field is limited and therefore manageable; action in this sense is a continuation of existing Red Cross tradition; and the aim is clear and definite: to protect as far as possible those who are least fitted to stand the strain from the physical and moral attrition of unemployment and lowered standards.

The present number of unemployed in the world has been estimated at from 25 to 30 millions. This means that, if their families are taken into account, some 60 million people are directly or indirectly affected by unemployment. To take one country alone, unemployment figures for Germany for February 15th, 1932, showed that 59.2 per of the men were married and, counting men and women together, 51.6 per were married. It does not need much imagination to realize what poverty means for their families in undernourishment, lack of sufficient clothing and in loss of morale. Until the end of 1930, enquiry in Germany showed no great difference between the nourishment of children of unemployed parents and those of employed parents; but since then conditions have deteriorated and it has been noted that the health of school children has declined. There has been an increase in undernourishment, and diseases of growth, rickets, anæmia, scrofula, lice, worms, diseases from dirt, and nervous and dental troubles. The children, and particularly those of the unemployed, have shown greater fatigue and lack of attention in school, reflecting the growing distress in the home. As food absorbs most of the family income, clothing and shoes wear out and cannot be replaced.

The difficulty of paying the old rents forces a retreat to cheaper, less sanitary lodgings, and brings the attendant evils of over-crowding and lack of air and light.

In a survey of this kind, nothing is more convincing, perhaps, than a concrete example of the effects of poverty, unemployment and overcrowding. A book recently published under the title of ''Hungry England'' gives the following contrasting figures for two wards of the city of Glasgow, viz, Calton, a working-class district, and Cathcart, a residential quarter for the well-to-do. The comparison is illuminating:

Cathcart is more than four times as large as Calton, yet 6.000 more people live in Calton than in Cathcart.

One baby is born each year to every 100 persons living in Cathcart. Nearly *three* babies are born each year to every 100 persons living in Calton.

One person dies each year to every 100 persons living in Cathcart. *Two* persons die each year to every 100 persons living in Calton.

Five infants under one year of age die out of every 100 born in Cathcart. *Thirteen* infants under one year of age die out of every 100 born in Calton.

One person out of every 200 dies each year of tubercular diseases in Cathcart. *Two* persons out of every 200 die each year of tubercular diseases in Calton.

One person out of every 650 dies each year of infectious diseases in Cathcart. *Seven* persons out of every 650 die each year of infectious diseases in Cathcart.

The Red Cross already has an honourable record and wide experience of child welfare so that the main need is to develop the methods already in use and extend them particularly to the children of the unemployed.

Let us then review briefly what may be done.

FOOD.

Perhaps the most pressing danger is that of undernourishment, particularly for the younger children, and its results in deficiency diseases

such as rickets, in under weight and in stunted growth. In Hungary, for instance, some children are not only not getting three good meals a day but many are getting one meal and that a poor one. The remedy is the distribution of milk and soup, either from a welfare centre for the younger children or in the school itself for the older children. The Red Cross is already doing this in several countries, Germany, Sweden, Yugoslavia and the United States among others. The distribution of milk is supplemented where possible by the provision of meals in school canteens and soup kitchens and often at children's play grounds, kindergartens and nurseries. Wherever possible, local tradespeople should be asked to make their contribution in kind: bakers can give unsold bread for instance. In fact, through systematic organization, considerable quantities of food can be utilized that would otherwise be wasted. Cooking can be done by voluntary helpers and sometimes by members of the Junior Red Cross. It is important that kitchen arrangements should be in trained and competent hands so that the best use may be made of the food and money available. In some places members of the Junior Red Cross invite other children to their own homes for meals or help collect baskets of food for needy families. They grow vegetables, and dry and can vegetables and fruit in home economics classes. One good plan is that adopted by the Kottbus Section in Germany where anyone can "adopt" a child by paying the price of a meal for one child a day to the Red Cross. Often centres for unemployed women can cook meals for distribution to school children. Further reference will be made to this below.

It should be noted that it is most important that the distribution of food should be preceded by some enquiry into the groups requiring most assistance. A knowledge of the family background of the children to be helped will ensure that help is given where the need is greatest. Particular attention should be paid to the following groups:

1) Sick and delicate children, and those threatened with tuberculosis.
2) Families where the breadwinner has been unemployed over a long period.
3) Large families.

The Red Cross can sometimes start free cooking courses, for it is unfortunately true that many of the women of the classes most severely affected do not know how to make the most effective use of the food and money available. It is important that the teacher at the classes should have practical acquaintance with the family habits and family budget of the people she wants to teach. Some committees in America have organized food demonstrations showing how to do an entire week's cooking on a minimum income. All those who attend are given a folder with points to consider in planning an emergency diet, a week's menu showing variations of dishes from the rations and many recipes. There is always a danger that diet may be inadequate in certain essential elements. In a large co-operative German society with 18,000 members, out of 36,000 unemployed it was found that consumption of provisions of all kinds had fallen about 20 to 30 per cent, while that of bread and potatoes remained practically the same. Information relating to 1929 shows that the diet of unemployed men in the Welsh coal fields comprised little beyond white bread, butter or margarine, potatoes, sugar, jam, tea and bacon in limited quantities. Very little meat or fresh milk was consumed. In the United States physicians conducting prenatal consultations report that unemployed women coming to their clinic show evidence of insufficient milk, meat, eggs and vegetables in their diet. Everywhere many families live almost entirely on potatoes. The effect of such an unbalanced diet on growing children is nothing short of disastrous.

One excellent plan is to place baskets in all the grocery stores in a city labelled with the suggestion that the shopper drop in a package of non-perishable food stuff. The baskets are collected by carts and taken to the central welfare station where they are made into 25-pound packages as well balanced for nutritive value as possible. The groceries are then distributed to the needy.

Clothing.

The most urgent need after that of adequate nourishment is that of clothing. When the family income is reduced, a higher percentage of the money available must be used for food so that, as clothes wear out, they cannot be replaced and those that remain cannot be washed, often because no change is available and because soap and hot water cost money. Children's shoes wear out quickly and are expensive to replace. Here perhaps an occupational club for unemployed men could be of use in repairing the foot-wear of their own and their friends' children. The Red Cross in many countries has made collections of spare clothing for distribution to the unemployed and in the United States has distributed clothing made from surplus government cotton. Clothes "drives" by the local section are an excellent means of easing the situation; they should be well advertised beforehand and private help should be enlisted in the loan of cars and the enrolment of collectors. The help of the Junior Red Cross will be found valuable here. They can often mend old clothes for needy children and help make new ones. In some cases, a class "adopts" some children for the winter and sees that they are adequately provided for.

Where there are unemployed women's clubs these can often make and mend clothes for the children of their neighbours. Sufficient warm clothing for children in the winter is a protection against colds, influenza and other illnesses.

Health.

The Red Cross was paying particular attention to the health of families and young children even before the arrival of severe unemployment. Now that lowered standards have weakened resistance to disease among a large percentage of the population, there is greater need than ever for the development of existing welfare work with special attention to the children of unemployed parents. The methods already in use are well known: prenatal clinics, infant clinics, school dispensaries, etc. There is a very pressing need for free medical consultations, free medicines and free hospital treatment for the children of families where reduced income leaves no surplus for anything beyond the minimum of food and clothing. If these unfortunate children are not examined from time to time there is great danger that serious diseases and defects may develop which could have been avoided by early discovery and treatment. And perhaps the greatest emphasis should be laid on the last word—treatment. It is not enough to discover a need if it cannot be met. The unemployed more than any other class need assistance if their children are not to enter life handicapped by ill-health. The Red Cross can do much by increasing the number of its holiday colonies, day nurseries, kindergartens, playgrounds and sanatoria.

One direction in which Red Cross committees could help is in the provision of open air shelters for the smaller children of unemployed parents. These shelters aim at the physical and moral welfare of the children under school age who are growing up through the most critical years of their life in poverty and depression. They also aim at benefiting the children's mothers through the relief from anxiety and the lessons in child nurture. This is a place where child welfare for unemployed children can be co-ordinated with other unemployed activities. The children's fathers can be called upon to assist in such structural work as has to be done for the provisions of the schools and the making of equipment. Where the men are organized in an occupational centre, a small committee could be formed in co-operation with the organizers of the centre.

Open air, cleanliness and orderliness will be the essential conditions demanded of even the simplest scheme adopted, though the ideal aimed at will include an open air playing ground, a heated shelter fitted with baths, the provision of meals and competent care for the greater part of the day during five days a week. A trained head is always necessary but there is also room for assistance from volunteers including the children's parents.

What is wanted first is a piece of open ground and if possible a small brick lined bath, a cooking stove, stretcher beds for the children and tables and chairs. Under present conditions in England it is possible, through collective cooking, to give the children three nourishing meals a day for 2/6d a week.

Another very simple and necessary need is the provision of soap and baths for children of unemployed.

Perhaps the cleanliness problem can best be tackled in the schools. In one Missouri school, the Junior Red Cross members brought fat and lye and made bars of soap for distribution by the city nurses and the local chapters of the Red Cross.

Once the primary needs of food and clothing and medical care have been reasonably met, there is another aspect of the problem not less important for the future of the generation of the depression. If mental and moral health does not receive attention, we will pay the price later in a nervous, unbalanced population. The building of shelters and playgrounds mentioned above will do something to provide a more suitable background for the child. Decline in the family fortunes only too frequently leads to frayed tempers in the home and lack of the attention which is the child's right. This is where kindergartens, day nurseries and supervised playgrounds may help the formation of a happier and sounder character than is possible in the home.

Red Cross aid should not stop with the younger children of the family. The need for support is as great or greater for young boys and girls leaving school at 14 or 15 with no prospect of employment. It is sometimes possible to give some vocational guidance to these children and to help them to employment. The period of inactivity should be used to improve their educational equipment and to give them some occupational training so that they may be better fitted to work when employment comes. Provision should be made too for their recreation and for their leisure hours by the organization of clubs, summer camps and games. This article can do little more than indicate where the need lies for help to adolescents. It is perhaps the most baffling and difficult aspect of the unemployment question. What is one to do for a generation of young men and women growing up in the feeling that they are homeless and unwanted in the world—a "generation adrift? That is the question to find the solution of which the Red Cross, like every other welfare organization, must do its part.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Towards a Florence Nightingale International Foundation

The meeting of the International Council of Nurses to be held in Paris next July will be awaited with keen interest by all those anxious to see an International Memorial to Florence Nightingale established through the collaboration of the nurses of the world and the Red Cross. The scheme, which has already been approved by the Board of Governors of the League and which will be laid before the Council in July, provides for the constitution of a Florence Nightingale International Foundation made up of representatives of the L. O. R. C. S. and the I. C. N. together with representatives of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees to be set up in the different countries. In spite of the world-wide depression and the difficult economic situation prevailing in almost all countries, National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees, for the purpose of raising funds for the Foundation, have already been formed in Great Britain, Belgium, Latvia, Holland and the United States, and there is every probability that, after the meeting of the I. C. N. in July, when it is hoped that the scheme will receive official endorsement, similar Committees will be organized by the Red Cross Societies and the National Nurses' Associations in all countries where these bodies exist.

In the meantime, a splendid effort has been made by the Red Cross and the Nurses to procure scholarships for the continuation of the International Courses organized at Bedford College in conjunction with the College of Nursing which will form part of the scheme for the future Foundation. In Great Britain, through the joint effort of the National Council of Nurses, its affiliated organizations and the British Red Cross, nine scholarships of £250 each have been guaranteed. The Nurses' Leagues of the various training schools have played a conspicuous part in raising scholarships, amongst these being the London Hospital Nurses' League, the Nightingale Fellowship; the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Guy's Hospital Nurses' League and King's College Hospital Nurses' League. While a proportion of these scholarships will be awarded to British nurses, a certain number will be available for other countries.

The League of Red Cross Societies has made provision for five scholarships of £250 to be awarded in full or part to nurses recommended by their national Red Cross Societies.

In addition, a scholarship has been guaranteed by the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Holland, and a half each by the Czechoslovak Red Cross Society and Iceland. The Polish Red Cross and the National Nurses' Associations of France and Japan are considering the awarding of full or part scholarships.

The splendid response of the Red Cross and the Nurses to secure the continuation of the International Courses, until such time as the I. C. N. meets and has an opportunity to discuss the question and until the F. N. I. F. can be formally constituted, is a striking proof of their appreciation of what has been done through the Courses at Bedford College to raise the standard of nursing education.

The minimum number of scholarships having been secured, the thirteenth Course in Public Health and the sixth Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers will open at Bedford College and the College of Nursing on August 15th, 1933. All arrangements for these Courses for the Session 1933-34 will be carried out by a Joint Committee composed of three representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and three representatives of the I. C. N.

Red Cross Societies and national Nurses' Associations wishing to award full or part scholarships are asked to notify the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses as early as possible. Applications for admission, accompanied by dental and medical certificates, should reach the League of Red Cross Societies not later than April 15th.

International Relief Union

At its session on January 26th last, the Council of the League of Nations approved the report submitted to it by the delegate of Italy relating to the coming into force of the International Relief Union on December 27th, 1932, and passed the following resolution:

"The Council,

Having taken note of the report which has been submitted to it by the Permanent Commission of the International Relief Union, dated October 26th, 1932, approves the various proposals and suggestions contained therein,

Fixes July 10th, 1933, as the date for the first meeting of the General Council of the Union.

Instructs the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to address immediately invitations to the said meeting to the Governments concerned, and to take all other action arising out of the report referred to".

Included in the report in question is the recommendation that invitations to the first meeting of the General Council be addressed to the International Red Cross Committee, the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Labour Office and the International Institute of Agriculture.

Child Welfare Meeting

The League of Nations' Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People has been convened for March 27th at 11 a.m. The meeting will be followed by a joint session of the Traffic in Women and Children Committee and the Child Welfare Committee to discuss the report of the sub-committee charged with studying the reorganization of the Advisory Commission, as well as certain aspects of the Experts' report on the Traffic in Women and Children in the Orient.

First Aid on Highways

The Prefecture of Police in Paris has issued the following decree, to take effect as from April 1st, 1933 :

"All public conveyances serving the outlying districts of the Paris area, with the exception of trams and buses belonging to the official Parisian Transport Company, must be equipped with first-aid chests to enable the necessary emergency care to be rendered to passengers in the event of accident".

LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Executive Committee The Executive Committee has been convened to meet at the offices of the League Secretariat on April 3rd next. The agenda, the drafting of which is not yet completed, will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin. It will be recalled that the Board of Governors, at its last meeting, increased the membership of the Committee to seven, which, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, makes a total of twelve.

Board of Governors *Dr. Achtiany*, Secretary of the Persian Legation in Paris and Persian delegate to the International Bureau of Public Health, has been designated by the Persian Red Lion and Sun to represent it on the Board of Governors of the League.

Bulgaria's New Baby On the announcement of the birth of a daughter to the Bulgarian sovereigns, the Secretary-General of the League sent the following congratulàtory telegram to Their Majesties:

''The King of Bulgaria, Sofia:

''We beg Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen to deign to accept our felicitations and good wishes on the birth of Her Royal Highness.

Swift,
League of Red Cross Societies''.

Within a few hours, the following message arrived from King Boris:

''Swift, League of Red Cross Societies:

''Queen and myself deeply touched by kind congratulations on birth of our daughter. Our warm thanks to League and yourself.

Boris''.

Missions *Dr. Sand*, Technical Counsellor, left on February 15th for Prague to assist the Czechoslovak Red Cross with the arrangements for the Regional Conference of Central-European Red Cross Societies.

M. Petersén, Director of the Relief Division, while on leave in Sweden visited the headquarters of the Swedish Red Cross Society during February to confer with the leaders on questions concerning the relations of that Society with the League.

Contributions to League Budget The following contributions have been received towards the administrative expenses of the League in addition to those listed in previous numbers of the Bulletin:

Austrian Red Cross.	1,367 French francs
Egyptian Red Crescent. . . .	£10.0.0. sterling.
Siamese Red Cross.	15,680 French franc.

BOOK REVIEWS

Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge, published at Geneva by the International Red Cross Committee. — Summary of the January, 1933, issue:

Le problème du chômage (The problem of Unemployment), by Abbé Maurice Zundel. — *Etat d'avancement des études sur les calamités* (Progress made in the study of Disasters), by Raoul Montandon, Editor-in-Chief of ''Matériaux pour l'étude des Calamités''.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE : *Conférence pour la réduction et la limitation des armements: armes chimiques, bactériennes, incendiaires.*

CHRONICLE: *Meeting of the General Council of the International Relief Union. — The Society of Army Doctors in Oslo, 1882-1932. — Floods at Harbin* (full-page illustration). — *Third International Hospital Congress. — Hospital Libraries.*

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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

The Hospital Almoner, A Brief Study of Hospital Social Service in Great Britain. Hospital Almoners' Association, London, 1932.

This book constitutes the first attempt to describe in printed form the history, organization and functions of hospital social service in England. The first Hospital Almoner was appointed in 1895, on the proposal of Sir Charles Loch, Secretary of the Charity Organization Society, to enable the Royal Free Hospital to undertake the delicate task of discriminating between patients able to pay for medical care and those deserving cases entitled to gratuitous treatments

Since that time, the duties of the Lady Almoner have become much more comprehensive and clear-cut, so that today she represents one of the most important cogs in the machinery of the general hospital, the lying-in hospital, and the tuberculosis, venereal disease and ophthalmological clinic.

Professor Richard Cabot, of Boston, the pioneer of hospital social service in the United States, frequently paid warm tribute to the Lady Almoners of England, of whose existence he was unaware when, in 1905, he engaged his first welfare worker.

On the fly-leaf of the book describing their work, the Lady Almoners have had the gracious thought of recording their veneration for Sir Charles Loch, ''The Grand Old Man'' of British philanthropy.

Sozialtherapie und Psychotherapie in den Methoden der Fursorge, by Siddi Wronsky and Arthur Kronfeld, Berlin, Heymann, 1932, pp. 120.

After considering the development of individual case work and analyzing the methods and principles thereof, the authors study the increasing part played by psychotherapy in the treatment of such cases. Without identifying themselves with any particular school or doctrine, they demonstrate how far the knowledge of individual circumstances may be facilitated by an analysis of character, constitution, temperament and mental type, and the infinite resources offered by a well-conceived psychotherapeutic programme. Here, the social worker and the doctor, when he is a psychologist, meet on common ground. The authors have rendered a very genuine service by demonstrating in so clear and comprehensible a manner the convergency of social and psychological treatment.

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Mr. Ernest J. SWIFT, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

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